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Subject: EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines - MONDAY - July 22, 2019

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines

Monday, July 22, 2019

*** DAILY HOT LIST ***

Risk plan for Philly refinery shows a hydrogen fluoride release could have been disastrous. Some say the toxic chemical is too dangerous to keep using
STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

(Friday) It's used to make cleaner-burning gasoline in about four dozen refineries in the U.S., including two in Philly region. In the pre-dawn hours of June 21, explosions at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery in South Philadelphia shook houses, sent giant orange fireballs into the air and jolted nearby residents. "I was woken up by three loud explosions, one after the other, boom, boom boom!" said David Masur, who lives about two miles from the plant. "And having two young kids in the house, you wake up and go, 'What's going on and what do I do about it?' So, it's a little nerve-wracking." Masur watched as the refinery spewed black smoke above the city. But what he didn't know at the time was just how close he and his family came to confronting one of the deadliest chemicals in use by refiners and other industrial manufacturers. Hydrogen fluoride is integral to the creation of high-octane gasoline. It's used at about 48 alkylation units in the U.S. — including the South Philadelphia refinery, where the explosion destroyed the unit and led to the planned closure of the financially troubled plant. It's also used at the Monroe Energy plant in Trainer, Delaware County and PBF's Paulsboro refinery in Paulsboro, N.J. City, state and federal officials say none of the air monitors in or around the facilities, or the air samples collected by Philadelphia's health department, detected the chemical, often referred to as hydrofluoric acid or HF. And a spokeswoman for Philadelphia Energy Solutions says no workers were exposed. But it raises questions nationwide about a substance so toxic that a vapor cloud of HF could travel for miles and cause blindness, serious burns, permanent injuries or death...

EPA raises concerns about ethylene oxide emissions from B. Braun plant near Allentown
WFMZ - LEIGH VALLEY NEWS

Friday -HANOVER TWP., Pa. - The Environmental Protection Agency raised concerns this week about elevated cancer risks for people living near a plant which produces medical and pharmaceutical devices near Allentown.The EPA raised concerns about ethylene oxide emissions from the B. Braun plant on Marcon Boulevard in Hanover Township. Ethylene oxide is a gas which is used for the sterilization of medical devices and equipment. It has been linked to breast cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.The EPA has said B. Braun has not broken any laws regarding its ethylene oxide emissions. State Rep. Jeanne McNeill, D-Lehigh, raised concerns about the emissions. "I am very

concerned about the ethylene oxide emissions from the B. Braun plant on Marcon Boulevard which is in my legislative district. The EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection needs to look further into this to assure that our residents are not faced with a cancer risk due to the release of this chemical in the air," McNeill said. "The safety and health of my constituents is my top priority, and I want to make sure that everything is being done to allow the residents of my district and beyond to breathe clean, unpolluted air."

Elizabeth River chemical cleanup continues to make progress

CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL

Military and wood processor to reimburse EPA and VA almost \$64 million in costs associated with remediating contaminated soils Sunday - For almost 70 years, the Elizabeth River in Portsmouth, VA, was the final destination for multiple streams of the oily, tarlike liquid known as creosote. A key ingredient used in wood preservation, the toxic chemical was as much a part of life in Norfolk as the industry that once relied on it to function: shipbuilding. And nowhere was it found in greater concentrations than at the former Atlantic Wood Industries site, an old wood-processing center that began operating in 1926 and backed directly up to the river's southern branch. In certain areas, "if you stepped in the sediments, you would coat your leg with creosote," recalled Randy Sturgeon, who has overseen the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to clean up the site under its Superfund program since 2004. "In some places it was 25 feet deep." Michael Unger, a professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science who has been studying the effects of the Elizabeth River contamination since the 1980s, remembered that "you could take a grab sample of the sediments and see the liquid creosote. You could see it and you could smell it." Today, much of that contamination is gone. Atlantic Wood, now operating as Atlantic Metrocast, is no longer in the wood business, having pivoted to the manufacture of precast concrete. The U.S. Navy, which over the years had used the site to dispose of waste, has ceased to do so and halted sludge flows into nearby wetlands. Polluted soils from the river bottom have been dredged and either contained behind an offshore wall or landfilled on Atlantic's property, the latter an ongoing process.

First-ever bill on regulating PFAS has passed US House | KYW

KYW NEWSRADIO- PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Investigation of toxic chemicals found in firefighting foam is included in the first-ever bill passed in the U.S. House which will regulate PFAS. But environmental advocates say we are only seeing the tip of this toxic iceberg. Congressman Brendan Boyle has been pushing for PFAS legislation for five years. "It would create an online health database for military personnel, because a lot of the focus so far, understandably, has been on longtime residents. But there hasn't been as much focus on those who worked on the bases, for sometimes, decades," Boyle said. Boyle says this bill is a good start, but "Some steps have been taken but they are just completely insufficient like putting a Band-Aid on a gunshot wound." A package of amendments has been added to the National Defense Authorization Act, which will require the defense department and the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor and clean up PFAS. "I can't underscore how little law is on the books regards to PFAS chemicals. We don't know about most of the contamination. We don't know most of the sources of contamination. There are no requirements to restrict new PFAS discharges into the air and water," said Scott Faber, who is with the Environmental Working Group, which has compiled a map of PFAS contamination across the country.

What consumers can do as regulators weigh compounds' risks

ASSOCIATED PRESS – WASHINGTON

___Sat. **WASHINGTON (AP)** — At first, Tomas Monarrez didn't notice the labels when he went shopping for pots and pans. "Completely toxin free!" said a big green message on a line of nonstick frying pans in the cookware aisle at a store in the nation's capital. "No PFOA!" boasted the label on a

12-piece kitchen set. "Will never release any toxic fumes," another label promised. "Oh, wow," Monarrez, an economist at a think tank, said, when asked if he had ever heard of the toxic chemicals that manufacturers were declaring their products free of. "I didn't know anything. Should I buy these?" Monarrez asked. "So all these are bad? Federal regulators are sorting out how to handle health risks from a group of widely used nonstick and stain-resistant compounds. But even reading labels may not be enough to guide consumers who want to limit their exposure to the manmade industrial material, known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. Scientists say there are many steps people can take to minimize their contact with the compounds, which federal toxicologists say show links to health problems. Some changes are simple, such as checking on the safety of your drinking water or buying different pots and pans. Others require spending and lifestyle changes — for example, passing up fast food or other takeout because the containers the food may be packaged in. For those concerned about exposure, there's one critical thing to know about PFAS compounds: "They're everywhere," Linda Birnbaum, head of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, told a recent gathering of her agency's advisory council.

Army Corps of Engineers begins Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission line environmental study WILLIAMSBURG VIRGINIA GAZETTE

The Army Corps of Engineers has kicked off its court-ordered environmental impact statement on Dominion Energy's Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission line. The Corps is essentially redoing, in a more rigorous manner, the environmental assessment it conducted prior to awarding Dominion a permit to construct a 17-tower transmission line across the James River from Surry County to James City County. The Corps will review the same list of more than 25 alternatives and potentially consider new ones as it studies environmental impacts in an analysis that will inform its reconsideration of its permit approval. The Corps anticipates a draft of the environmental impact statement will be available for public review in November, and the goal is to complete the study in two years or less. One thing that will help the process along is that there's a fair amount of data regarding environmental impact and alternative solutions that has already been collected thanks to the environmental assessment. The difference this time around is the study will delve more deeply into the subject, Corps regulatory chief Tom Walker said. "We completed an environmental assessment that gathered quite a bit of information ... we don't throw that information away," Walker said. "We're not necessarily starting from scratch with this assessment. We're now taking a deeper look at these alternatives and a deeper look at the impacts." The Corps held a public meeting to discuss the new study Wednesday at the Doubletree by Hilton Williamsburg. At the open house meeting, dozens of people came and went, asking questions of Corps and Dominion officials and providing feedback on the upcoming study...

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Explosion-damaged South Philadelphia refinery files for bankruptcy, again Philadelphia Energy Solutions, which abruptly announced its shutdown following a devastating fire and explosion last month, has filed for its second Chapter 11 bankruptcy in less than two years, the company announced Monday. PES said it has obtained up to \$100 million in debtor-in-possession financing from current creditors to maintain the idled 1,400-acre facility while it goes through the bankruptcy process, and while investigators continue to examine the June 21 fire and explosion that injured five workers and destroyed a critical processing unit. "This proposed financing provides the company with a strong financial foundation to support existing operations, undertake the work necessary to ensure the refinery complex is safely positioned for rebuilding and restart and complete its reorganization process," the company said in a news release. Several buyers have reportedly offered to acquire the industrial property in South Philadelphia, though it's not clear they would want to run it as a refinery. The site contains a large amount of logistical infrastructure, including storage tanks,

pipelines, and connections to port and rail. It is also seriously polluted, and will likely require environmental remediation.

Horticultural Society, Philadelphia Water Dept., Property Owner Complete Largest Residential Rain Garden In The City [PaEN]

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE

U.S. Steel denies its Mon Valley Works emissions are harmful to public health

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Pete Buttigieg proposes Pittsburgh summit on climate change at Democratic debate Agreement would help bring about change in the absence of support from the federal government. Buttigieg, along with Peduto and dozens of other mayors across the country, has vowed to ...

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA (NPR)

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Extreme weather causes fumes to escape fire-stricken PES refinery (Friday) Heavy rains and high temperatures shifted the lid of a 6 million gallon tank containing gasoline components at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions oil refinery, according to a spokesperson for the company. The incident caused fumes to escape, prompting complaints from nearby South Philadelphia neighbors. The refinery is in the process of winding down operations after a fiery explosion tore through the facility last month. The financially troubled company announced it would close the facility within days of the blaze. Crude oil refining operations are expected to halt next week, according to Reuters. Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Management sent an alert message through ReadyPhiladelphia to residents Wednesday afternoon telling them not to be alarmed by the fumes, and that odors may continue to be released as the shutdown continues. But PES spokeswoman Cherice Corley said neighbors should not anticipate continued odors as a result of the closure. "We will do everything we can to insure safe wind down of operations here at PES and not impact the community," Corley told WHYY. "The community is our priority." ...

Report: Without bold climate action, deadly heat waves in store for Pennsylvania Pennsylvania faces unprecedented, deadly heat waves in the coming decades unless aggressive action is taken to combat climate change, according to a new report published Tuesday by the Union of Concerned Scientists. Historically, Pennsylvania has experienced an average of eight days per year where the heat index (the temperature it feels like, with humidity taken into account) surpassed 90 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the report. Under a "slow action" scenario for addressing climate change, the UCS analysis finds that number would increase to 40 days per year on average by midcentury. "Slow action" assumes carbon emissions start declining at midcentury and the global average temperature rises 4.3 degrees Fahrenheit by

century's end. On current emission pathways, with no action taken, Pennsylvania would see 71 such days by the century's end. The analysis covers the lower 48 states and includes interactive maps showing projections by county and state. It finds large swaths of the country could become dangerously hot. The report authors examined temperature and humidity projections, based on scenarios of little to no action on climate change, versus aggressive climate action. Then they ran those projections through the National Weather Forecast heat index equation and looked at how conditions are likely to change for different communities. For example, with no action taken to curb climate change, parts of Florida and Texas would experience the equivalent of five months per year on average when the heat index is greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century. "If we wish to spare people in the United States and around the world the mortal dangers of extreme and relentless heat, there is little time to do so and little room for half measures," the report's authors write.

KYW - 1060 - NEWS RADIO

First-ever bill on regulating PFAS has passed US House | KYW PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Investigation of toxic chemicals found in firefighting foam is included in the first-ever bill passed in the U.S. House which will regulate PFAS. But environmental advocates say we are only seeing the tip of this toxic iceberg. Congressman Brendan Boyle has been pushing for PFAS legislation for five years. "It would create an online health database for military personnel, because a lot of the focus so far, understandably, has been on longtime residents. But there hasn't been as much focus on those who worked on the bases, for sometimes, decades," Boyle said. Boyle says this bill is a good start, but "Some steps have been taken but they are just completely insufficient like putting a Band-Aid on a gunshot wound." A package of amendments has been added to the National Defense Authorization Act, which will require the defense department and the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor and clean up PFAS. "I can't underscore how little law is on the books regards to PFAS chemicals. We don't know about most of the contamination. We don't know most of the sources of contamination. There are no requirements to restrict new PFAS discharges into the air and water," said Scott Faber, who is with the Environmental Working Group, which has compiled a map of PFAS contamination across the country.

WFMZ - LEIGH VALLEY NEWS

EPA raises concerns about ethylene oxide emissions from B. Braun plant near Allentown Friday - HANOVER TWP., Pa. - The Environmental Protection Agency raised concerns this week about elevated cancer risks for people living near a plant which produces medical and pharmaceutical devices near Allentown. The EPA raised concerns about ethylene oxide emissions from the B. Braun plant on Marcon Boulevard in Hanover Township. Ethylene oxide is a gas which is used for the sterilization of medical devices and equipment. It has been linked to breast cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The EPA has said B. Braun has not broken any laws regarding its ethylene oxide emissions. State Rep. Jeanne McNeill, D-Lehigh, raised concerns about the emissions. "I am very concerned about the ethylene oxide emissions from the B. Braun plant on Marcon Boulevard which is in my legislative district. The EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection needs to look further into this to assure that our residents are not faced with a cancer risk due to the release of this chemical in the air," McNeill said. "The safety and health of my constituents is my top priority, and I want to make sure that everything is being done to allow the residents of my district and beyond to breathe clean, unpolluted air."

WEBMD HEATH NEWS

Residents Unaware of Cancer-Causing Toxin in Air - Fri-- Ann Singley was trying to muscle her lawnmower out of a ditch in front of her home in Covington, GA., when she felt a tug in her breast. It was a hard lump, and in the days after she discovered it, it didn't go away. It was stage III breast cancer. Singley, who was 33, was just beginning what would be a long and desperate fight to survive. Her youngest child, Gene, was only 3. "She told me, all he's going to remember about her is her being sick," said Singley's mother, Velma Slaton. The year Singley was diagnosed with breast cancer, 2007, a company now called BD Bard, which sterilizes medical devices, reported releasing more than 9,000 pounds of a gas called ethylene oxide into the air about a half-mile from her home.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE - PREVIOUS REPORTING

Sterigenics created cancer risk 10 times higher than federal EPA ...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/.../ct-met-sterigenics-epa-cancer-risks-20190529-stor...> May 29, 2019 - Ethylene oxide emitted by Sterigenics continued to pose high cancer ... sterilization plant was responsible for long-term cancer

risks up to 10 times ... at a public meeting in Burr Ridge that he takes their concerns "very, very seriously." ... and in 2016 the EPA released a long-delayed reassessment linking it ...

Officials knew ethylene oxide was linked to cancer for decades. Here's ...

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/.../ct-met-ethylene-oxide-sterigenics-cancer-science-2...> Dec 20, 2018 - Here's why it's still being emitted in Willowbrook and Waukegan. ... When Julie Cannell was born in the 1980s, the Sterigenics plant in ... up breathing the highly toxic gas at concentrations 14 times higher than studies ... New EPA tests near Sterigenics show ethylene oxide cancer risks haven't disappeared.

ERIE TIMES NEWS

Court Evidence Offers Rare Inside Look At Erie Coke Sunday

HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS

Water bills could go up to pay for \$315 million in stormwater projects

ATLOONA

Water Authority To Buy 2,459 Acres Of Watershed Land (Sunday)

Altoona Water Authority Takes Step Toward Wastewater Sludge Digester (Sunday)

PA ENVIRONMENT DIGEST BLOG (By PA DEP)

AAPlasma, LLC In Philadelphia Receives EPA Small Business Environmental Technology Grant On July 19, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the award of 21 Small Business Environmental Technology Grants, including one to AAPlasma, LLC in Philadelphia. AAPlasma, LLC, located at the Pennovation Center in Philadelphia, will use the EPA's SBIR funding opportunity, with the support of Drexel University's Nyheim Plasma Institute, to further develop a wastewater treatment technology that offers better public health protection from major factors that lead to antimicrobial risks. According to the World Health Organization, antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest threats to global health. Antimicrobial resistance refers to the natural ability of bacteria and other microbes to develop resistance to the medicines we use to treat them, and the process is accelerated by inappropriate or excessive use of pharmaceutical products designed to kill unwanted pathogens in humans, animals and crops. In particular, the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in human and animal health is fueling resistance. "The EPA SBIR program allows small businesses, like AAPlasma LLC, to put out-of-the-box ideas to the test that could potentially revolutionize the way we approach some of the greatest environmental challenges we face today," said Charles Bailey, Chief Operations Officer for AAPlasma. "We at AAPlasma believe our technology can soon be used to affordably and effectively treat wastewater from various sources that are prone to containing antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and rendering it completely safe for reuse. We have the SBIR program to thank for kicking off this possibility."...

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

EPA Announces \$2 Million Grant Program To Cleanup Trash Along Great Lakes

ADDITIONAL HEADLINS (Pa.)

Senators Scarnati, Yaw, Baker Who Oppose DRBC's Fracking Moratorium Seek To Intervene In Federal Case As Environmental Trustees [PaEN]

Sauro:Raw Sewage Discharged Into Harrisburg Waterways On 150 Days Last Year

Growing Greener Coalition:makes Name Hellbender Clean Water Ambassador, Then Cut \$16 Million For Clean Water Projects [PaEN]

Editorial: Maintain Nuclear Power Plant Inspections

[Valley Officials Fighting For \\$21 Million Grant For Critical Link To D&L Trail - Sunday](#)

[Moving Methane: What Route Will Liquefied Natural Gas Take In NE PA?- Sunday](#)

[50,000 Reasons Why The Stroud Water Research Center Watershed Restoration Program Is 6 Years Strong \[PaEN\]](#)

[Independence School Students Learn Freshwater Science Thru Stroud Water Research Center Partnership \[PaEN\]](#)

[USDA: \\$400 Million In Loan Guarantees Still Available To Help Small Rural Business, Farmers Reduce Energy Costs \[PaEN\]](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

[WASHINGTON POST](#)

[The Energy 202: EPA's new 'no surprises' inspection policy has some critics worried \(Friday\)](#) The Environmental Protection Agency will no longer have inspectors drop by power plants and other potential illegal polluters without giving states notice, a move Trump administration critics say will limit the agency's ability to enforce environmental laws. A July 11 memo from Susan Bodine, the EPA's top enforcement official, to regional administrators spelled out the agency's new "no surprises" policy as an effort to better cooperate with state and local regulators. "With increased EPA cooperation and transparency, the EPA expects the states to respond in kind," Bodine writes. The memo is the latest move by President Trump's environmental deputies to vest more power in the states when it comes to ensuring companies are following the nation's clean air and water laws. But the administration's critics say the EPA is helping polluters by deferring to state regulators, who often tread more lightly when dealing with local employers. Under the new policy, the agency will provide states "with advance notice of inspections" and "will generally defer to a state as the primary implementer of inspections and enforcement." Bodine also asked regional offices to avoid inspections that overlap with ones states have already conducted within a 12-month time period. "Taking the element of surprise away from inspections decreases their effectiveness, for obvious reasons," Tim Whitehouse, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and a former EPA enforcement attorney, said in a statement. "I fear that EPA's 'no surprises' posture masks a 'see no evil' approach to corporate polluters."...

[EPA's watchdog is scrutinizing ethics practices of agency's former air policy chief](#) A key architect of the Trump administration's efforts to weaken federal climate rules is under scrutiny by a federal watchdog for his dealings with industry players who lobbied the government to ease carbon pollution limits. It is the third inquiry into whether Bill Wehrum, who headed the Environmental Protection Agency's air policy division from November 2017 until last month, violated federal ethics rules. The EPA's inspector general is looking at Wehrum's interactions with his former law firm as well as several of its clients, who rank among the nation's major emitters of greenhouse gases linked to climate change, according to two individuals who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter. "This is yet another example where the Trump administration has done just the opposite of 'draining the swamp,' by empowering polluting industries and installing those industries' lobbyists and lawyers at the highest levels of our federal government," said Sen. Thomas R. Carper (Del.), the top Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. In February, The Post reported on two instances in which Wehrum appeared to violate President Trump's ethics pledge, which limits political appointees from interacting with their former employers and clients for two years after taking office. Wehrum, who worked at a firm now called Hunton Andrews Kurth, is also under investigation by the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Democrats on the Senate environment panel.

Why second phase of Metro's Silver Line has been more problem-plagued than the first

[Why second phase of Metro's Silver Line has been more problem-plagued than the first](#) When the first phase of Metro's Silver Line was under construction, large sections of track had to be built over the Capital Beltway. Workers had to bore a tunnel in the middle of Tysons, one of the busiest retail and office centers in the country.

In the end, the 11.7-mile rail-line extension was completed six months late and more than \$220 million over budget. Officials were confident construction of Phase 2 would be much smoother. They were using a different contractor, there were fewer construction challenges, and they had learned many lessons from the first phase. Fast-forward five years, and construction of the final portion of the \$5.8 billion rail line, which was expected to be wrapped up next month, may not be completed until next spring or summer. Trains that were originally set to begin running in January probably won't start carrying passengers until mid-to-late 2020. Executives in charge of the project are at a loss to explain the delay. "It's hard to say why we need that extra time beyond August 7 at this point," said Charles Stark, executive director of the rail project, referring to the date when the contractor was expected to complete work. "But we are investigating why the project is coming in late."

WASHINGTON TIMES

Appeals court upholds Trump move to drop mine pollution rule

Friday = BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) - A U.S. appeals court panel sided with the Trump administration Friday in a mining pollution dispute, ruling that state and federal programs already in place ensure that companies take financial responsibility for future cleanups. The ruling came after the administration was sued by environmental groups for dropping an Obama-era proposal that would have forced companies to put up money to show they have resources to clean up pollution. The mining industry has a legacy of bankrupt companies abandoning polluted sites and leaving taxpayers to cover cleanup costs. But the three-judge panel with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said it was "unpersuaded" by the environmentalists' arguments that the Trump administration relied on a faulty economic analysis in making its decision. "Existing federal and state programs impose significant financial responsibility requirements on the hardrock mining industry," Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson wrote. "States have changed their financial responsibility requirements to account for the risk of bankruptcy" by companies. The case began after Environmental Protection Agency said in December 2017 that stricter regulations and modern mining practices have reduced the risks of pollution going unaddressed.

Duke Energy needs to expedite coal power retirement |

Friday - INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana's largest electric utility needs to move faster to retire its aging network of coal-fired power plants and replace them with cleaner, more renewable power sources, environmentalist said. Duke Energy Indiana officials said they hope to retire all nine of the utility's coal-fired units by 2038 and construct two large natural-gas plants. "We view this as the beginning of our transition to a more nimble, diversified fleet," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana, which serves 840,000 electric customers in 69 of the state's 92 counties. But the environmentalists contend Duke is stalling and that other Indiana utilities are moving faster to mothball the plants, which spew carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the atmosphere, the Indianapolis Business Journal reported. "Duke's plan is exceptionally disappointing," said Kerwin Olson, executive director of Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (D.C.)

What consumers can do as regulators weigh compounds' risks

Sat. **WASHINGTON (AP)** — At first, Tomas Monarrez didn't notice the labels when he went shopping for pots and pans. "Completely toxin free!" said a big green message on a line of nonstick frying pans in the cookware aisle at a store in the nation's capital. "No PFOA!" boasted the label on a 12-piece kitchen set. "Will never release any toxic fumes," another label promised. "Oh, wow," Monarrez, an economist at a think tank, said, when asked if he had ever heard of the toxic chemicals that manufacturers were declaring their products free of. "I didn't know anything. Should I buy these?" Monarrez asked. "So all these are bad? Federal regulators are sorting out how to handle health risks from a group of widely used nonstick and stain-resistant compounds. But even reading labels may not be enough to guide consumers who want to limit their exposure to the manmade industrial material, known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. Scientists say there are many steps people can take to minimize their contact with the compounds, which federal toxicologists say show links to health problems. Some changes are simple, such as checking on the safety of your drinking water or buying different pots and pans. Others require spending and lifestyle changes — for example, passing up fast food or other takeout because the containers the food may be packaged in. For those concerned about exposure, there's one critical thing to know about PFAS compounds: "They're everywhere," Linda Birnbaum, head of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, told a recent gathering of her agency's advisory council. "The carpets and the chairs and maybe the clothes

you're wearing," Birnbaum said. She noted she used to love the ritual of spraying Scotchgard on newly bought tablecloths. No more, she made clear. There are thousands of different versions of the compounds, including PFOA and another early version, both now phased out of production in the U.S. PFAS are used in products including nonstick cookware, but also in stain- and steam-resistant bags for microwave popcorn and many other food containers and packaging, shaving cream, dental floss, stain protection for fabrics and rugs and outdoor garb — for starters. Federal studies of people heavily exposed to the compounds have found links between high blood levels of older kinds of PFAS and a range of health problems, including liver issues, low birth weights, and testicular and kidney cancer. High levels also have been found in many drinking water systems. Military installations that use PFAS-laden firefighting foam and businesses that work with PFAS are two big sources of water contamination.

DELAWARE

DELAWARE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Pounding sand in Delaware Bankruptcy Court - **OPINION Thursday - Good afternoon everyone**, Checking out the filings in Delaware U.S. Bankruptcy Court is a good way to check out industry trends. One trend that is now being watched comes from oil/gas drillers and suppliers that led the revolution in hydraulic fracturing or fracking. Fracking helped the United States emerge as the world's largest oil producer. But profits have been elusive, especially for smaller fry. While overall oil patch bankruptcies are down in 2019, a few recent filings have made their way to Wilmington. West Chester, PA-based drilling equipment maker Schramm filed for Chapter 11 earlier this month in Wilmington, joining Elk Petroleum and Emerge Energy Services. On the coal side, a mid-sized miner in West Virginia is also heading to Wilmington. Schramm cited depressed conditions in the drilling industry in its filing. Elk is a small exploration company that works in the Rocky Mountain region. Emerge cashed in on the boom in specialized fracking sand mined in the upper Midwest. Trainloads from pits were a common sight as sand was dispatched to Pennsylvania, Texas and other hotspots.

DNREC NEWS RELEASE

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund public workshop set for July 25 in Dover DNREC's Environmental Finance Office and the Delaware Division of Public Health will host a State Revolving Loan Fund public workshop Thursday, July 25...

WEST VIRGINIA

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

As Heat Wave Approaches, Study Finds West Virginia Faces Hotter Future (Friday) New research published this week finds communities across the county, including in West Virginia, can expect weeks of dangerously hot days in the coming decades if action to reduce global heat-trapping pollution isn't taken. According to a peer-reviewed study published this week by researchers from the science advocacy group the Union of Concerned Scientists, by the end of the century, West Virginians can expect expect a much hotter future if

actions to mitigate climate change aren't implemented. "This Union of Concerned Scientists report shows if we stay on our current global emissions path, extreme heat days are poised to rise steeply in frequency and severity in just the next few decades," stated the group's accompanying report. "This heat would cause large areas of the United States to become dangerously hot and would threaten the health, lives, and livelihoods of millions of people." The study, published Monday, July 15, in the journal *Environmental Research Communications*, used 18 climate models to project future heat indexes, a combination of temperature and relative humidity, also known as what temperatures "feel like." By 2100, the study estimates West Virginia would experience almost three months worth of days where temperatures hit above a heat index of 90 degrees Fahrenheit if climate intervention isn't undertaken. Today, there are, on average, 13 days a year with a heat index above 90 degrees. Historically in West Virginia, the heat index has hit above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, on average, one day per year. The study estimates by the year 2100, this could increase to 42 days. By the end of the century, about 1.1 million people would be exposed to a heat index above 105 degrees Fahrenheit for the equivalent of a month or more each year...

Crayfish Conservation Effort to Take Place in Southern W.Va. (Friday) The West Virginia Division of Highways is providing nearly \$180,000 to West Liberty University to determine the effects of construction activities on endangered crayfish. The West Virginia Division of Highways, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and West Liberty University are working together to move two protected crayfish species from bridge updates and replacements occurring in the next several years. "The Division of Highways is thrilled to be part of an initiative that will benefit so many people as well as a native West Virginia species," WVDOH Natural Resource Unit leader Traci Cummings said in a press release. WVDOH endangered species specialist Sydney Burke added, "Transportation projects give us opportunities to work on rare wildlife in the area, and to find ways to conserve those species while ensuring the state's roads and bridges are up to date and safe." The conservation initiative in the Big Sandy River watershed will begin in 2020. Undergraduate and graduate students from WLU Professor Zachary Loughman's lab conducting field work with crayfish. "My students and I want to do everything we can to get the word out about crayfish, why they're important and what we need to do to save them," Loughman said. "Through this initiative, we are excited to foster the connection communities already have with the streams and rivers in this region..."

HUNTINGTON HERALD DISPATCH

What consumers can do as regulators weigh compounds' risks Sat. **WASHINGTON (AP)** — At first, Tomas Monarrez didn't notice the labels when he went shopping for pots and pans. "Completely toxin free!" said a big green message on a line of nonstick frying pans in the cookware aisle at a store in the nation's capital. "No PFOA!" boasted the label on a 12-piece kitchen set. "Will never release any toxic fumes," another label promised. "Oh, wow," Monarrez, an economist at a think tank, said, when asked if he had ever heard of the toxic chemicals that manufacturers were declaring their products free of. "I didn't know anything. Should I buy these?" Monarrez asked. "So all these are bad? Federal regulators are sorting out how to handle health risks from a group of widely used nonstick and stain-resistant compounds. But even reading labels may not be enough to guide consumers who want to limit their exposure to the manmade industrial material, known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. Scientists say there are many steps people can take to minimize their contact with the compounds, which federal toxicologists say show links to health problems. Some changes are simple, such as checking on the safety of your drinking water or buying different pots and pans. Others require spending and lifestyle changes — for example, passing up fast food or other takeout because the containers the food may be packaged in. For those concerned about exposure, there's one critical thing to know about PFAS compounds: "They're everywhere," Linda Birnbaum, head of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, told a recent gathering of her agency's advisory council. "The carpets and the chairs and maybe the clothes you're wearing," Birnbaum said. She noted she used to love the ritual of spraying Scotchgard on newly bought tablecloths. No more, she made clear. There are thousands of different versions of the compounds, including PFOA and another early version, both now phased out of production in the U.S. PFAS are used in products including nonstick cookware, but also in stain- and steam-resistant bags for microwave popcorn and many other food containers and packaging, shaving cream, dental floss, stain protection for fabrics and rugs and outdoor garb — for starters.

CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL

Tour stop by American Duchess helps Point Pleasant stay on map as riverboat port

Manchin dubious of China Energy investment deal with WV

PARKERSBURG NEWS-SENTINEL

Nixon's environmental legacy - column Most Americans who remember President Richard Nixon probably associate his name with the Watergate break-in and his abbreviated presidency. Despite Nixon's self-inflicted problems, I remember him as the greatest environmental president of my lifetime. Among Nixon's environmental accomplishments: He signed into law the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It encouraged harmony between man and his environment; it promoted efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; it sought to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and it established a Council on Environmental Quality. In 1970 he signed the executive order that created the Environmental Protection Agency. Its mission was to conduct environmental assessments, research, and education on projects that use federal funds. The Clean Air Act of 1970 regulated air emissions from stationary and mobile sources to protect public health and public welfare and to regulate emissions of hazardous air pollutants. Finally, the Clean Water Act of 1972 established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Without these laws over the last 50 years, the U.S. would be an environmental sewer. Can you imagine what the air and water in Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and other major industrial cities would look and smell like today? Nixon also recognized looming threats to American wildlife.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

The pesticide the EPA knows harms children but approved anyway

Improving Md. education will improve residents' health, too

Exposure to the outdoors is healthy for youngsters

More than 100 paddlers take to the water in support of land preservation

BLOOMBERG ENVIRONMENT

Maryland Transit May Intervene in Metro Line Permit Row (Friday) The Maryland Transit Administration will be allowed to intervene in a case challenging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' issuance of a Clean Water Act permit to facilitate the building of a new metro line, the District of Maryland ruled. Friends of Capital Crescent Trail, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving park land and open spaces in Montgomery County, Md., filed the suit in January. The group alleges that Maryland's plan for disposing of material dredged during the construction of a 16.2-mile light-rail transit line, called the Purple Line, violates the Clean Water Act and shouldn't have been approved by the Army Corps. The MTA may intervene because it would be affected by an adverse outcome in this case more than the Army Corps, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland said July 18. If the plaintiffs win, it will seriously impact the MTA's ability to continue with a project into which it has already poured vast amounts of resources and time, the court said. The court rejected the plaintiffs' argument that the MTA seeks to muddy the waters by focusing on the line, when the actual focus of the litigation is the administrative procedures that led to the permit. The court didn't determine whether the MTA has

a right to intervene, but granted permissive intervention...

CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL

Elizabeth River chemical cleanup continues to make progress Military and wood processor to reimburse EPA and VA almost \$64 million in costs associated with remediating contaminated soils Sunday - For almost 70 years, the Elizabeth River in Portsmouth, VA, was the final destination for multiple streams of the oily, tarlike liquid known as creosote. A key ingredient used in wood preservation, the toxic chemical was as much a part of life in Norfolk as the industry that once relied on it to function: shipbuilding. And nowhere was it found in greater concentrations than at the former Atlantic Wood Industries site, an old wood-processing center that began operating in 1926 and backed directly up to the river's southern branch. In certain areas, "if you stepped in the sediments, you would coat your leg with creosote," recalled Randy Sturgeon, who has overseen the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to clean up the site under its Superfund program since 2004. "In some places it was 25 feet deep." Michael Unger, a professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science who has been studying the effects of the Elizabeth River contamination since the 1980s, remembered that "you could take a grab sample of the sediments and see the liquid creosote. You could see it and you could smell it." Today, much of that contamination is gone. Atlantic Wood, now operating as Atlantic Metrocast, is no longer in the wood business, having pivoted to the manufacture of precast concrete. The U.S. Navy, which over the years had used the site to dispose of waste, has ceased to do so and halted sludge flows into nearby wetlands. Polluted soils from the river bottom have been dredged and either contained behind an offshore wall or landfilled on Atlantic's property, the latter an ongoing process.

MARYLAND DAILY RECORD

Maryland transit agency facing \$2B shortfall in next decade

A report from the Maryland Transit Administration says it's facing a funding shortfall of more than \$2 billion over the next decade - SUBSCRIPTION REQUIRED

CAPITAL GAZETTE

Jon Mueller: Little Island fight was about protecting the Chesapeake Bay. It's not over yet. - OPINION

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Raw sewage was discharged into Harrisburg waterways on 150 days last year

Penn Live

'Sunny day' floods a rising threat in region, including Annapolis, Baltimore, D.C.

Maryland Reporter

Snapping Turtles Abound in the Chesapeake

The Southern Maryland Chronicle

VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA MERCURY

'Can't ignore reality': Army Corps grapples with after-the-fact assessment of James River power lines (Friday)

WILLIAMSBURG — On a map propped on an easel in a dimly lit conference room of the Hilton DoubleTree, the transmission line across the James River looks like one of a dozen alternatives for bringing power to northern Hampton Roads. But about six miles away, off the map and on the ground, the line takes on different dimensions: 7.76 miles (length), 17 (towers), 130 to 295 feet (tower heights), 500 (kilovolts). The numbers are so precise exactly because they aren't hypothetical. All of these power lines and the infrastructure holding them in place have already been built. The Surry-Skiffes Creek line, constructed by Dominion Energy, began supplying power to 600,000 people on Virginia's Lower

Peninsula in February. Assessing the environmental impact of a project that has already been completed is a situation new to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. But in this case the agency has no choice. On March 1 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that the corps' earlier finding that the transmission line would have "no significant impact" on the surrounding environment was "arbitrary and capricious" and ordered it to conduct an environmental impact statement. "Congress created the EIS process to provide robust information in situations precisely like this one, where, following an environmental assessment, the scope of a project's impacts remains both uncertain and controversial," the court declared in [its opinion](#). An in-depth review that incorporates public feedback and variables including air and water quality, economics, energy needs and cultural resources, an EIS also considers alternative ways of executing a project — in this case, 27 other ways...

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

Renewables deserve level playing field | - Letter to Editor/opinion In the fight against climate change, we are failing to unleash one of our most important weapons — free-market capitalism. We tend to make major policy decisions only when a problem rises to the level of a widely perceived crisis. Exxon scientists raised concerns about global warming in the 1970s, and only now has it risen to the level of a national political concern. In the necessary transition from fossil fuels to clean energy, our most important natural resources are free, abundant solar and wind energy. Unlike coal, oil and gas, where the costs will rise as the resources are depleted, the price of sunshine and wind will remain steady at zero forever. Our most important human resources are scientific knowledge and technical know-how. The last decade has brought astonishing declines in the cost of wind and solar power, and both are now competitive with coal and gas. New approaches to storage and grid management are coming on strong, providing backup power for wind and solar generators. What is most needed now are breakthroughs in our public policies that will encourage a rapid transition to clean energy. A good place to start would be to stop using taxpayer money to subsidize fossil fuels. Since we're now phasing out solar and electric car subsidies, so we should phase out direct subsidies (think tax breaks) and indirect subsidies (think air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions) for fossil fuels. These subsidies are huge; for the U.S., in 2015 they added up to \$649 billion in direct and indirect costs paid by taxpayers.

ALEXANDRIA TIMES

Environmental Action Plan updated (Friday) Council voted unanimously to adopt the city's updated Environmental Action Plan 2040 at its July 9 public hearing, pledging a 50 percent reduction of the city's carbon output by 2030. The city's targeted emission reductions match those outlined by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which warned in 2018 that "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" would be required to prevent catastrophe as a result of global warming. The city passed its first EAP in 2009. The process to update that plan began in 2017. Council voted unanimously to adopt the first part of EAP2040 — concerning energy, climate change, green buildings, land use and open space and waste — in October 2018. The section of the EAP update council adopted on July 9 concerned five other focus areas for the environment, according to a city news release: transportation, air quality, water, health and outreach. "It is a well written document with every word carefully chosen and is the product of much community input and collaboration," Councilor Del Pepper said in her newsletter. "Earlier, Alexandria was the leader in the region with its environmental initiatives. This document is the map that guides our way to again being that leader." Brendan Owens, a member of the city's Environmental Policy Commission, told council that the plan would help the city enact its updated Green Building Policy, which council adopted on June 22. The new policy sets stricter environmental standards for new public and private developments in the city...

NORTHERN VA DAILY

Town says it has power to dissolve EDA, claim half of assets Interim Mayor Matt Tederick said during a Thursday town-county liaison meeting that he believes the town can force the Front Royal-Warren County Economic Development Authority's dissolution and subsequently receive half of the authority's assets.

WILLIAMSBURG VIRGINIA GAZETTE

Army Corps of Engineers begins Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission line environmental study The Army Corps of Engineers has kicked off its court-ordered environmental impact statement on Dominion Energy's Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission

line. The Corps is essentially redoing, in a more rigorous manner, the environmental assessment it conducted prior to awarding Dominion a permit to construct a 17-tower transmission line across the James River from Surry County to James City County. The Corps will review the same list of more than 25 alternatives and potentially consider new ones as it studies environmental impacts in an analysis that will inform its reconsideration of its permit approval. The Corps anticipates a draft of the environmental impact statement will be available for public review in November, and the goal is to complete the study in two years or less. One thing that will help the process along is that there's a fair amount of data regarding environmental impact and alternative solutions that has already been collected thanks to the environmental assessment. The difference this time around is the study will delve more deeply into the subject, Corps regulatory chief Tom Walker said. "We completed an environmental assessment that gathered quite a bit of information ... we don't throw that information away," Walker said. "We're not necessarily starting from scratch with this assessment. We're now taking a deeper look at these alternatives and a deeper look at the impacts." The Corps held a public meeting to discuss the new study Wednesday at the Doubletree by Hilton Williamsburg. At the open house meeting, dozens of people came and went, asking questions of Corps and Dominion officials and providing feedback on the upcoming study...

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT

88,000 hemp plants land and Chesapeake Farm after law allows commercial farming of marijuana look-alike (Metered Paywall - 3 articles a month) A sea of green flashed when the tractor trailer's doors were opened. At first glance, it looked like a truckload of marijuana had landed in Chesapeake. Although they looked like the psychoactive plants, the new crop of 2-foot tall plants were hemp.

MISCELLANEOUS

GREENWIRE / E&E NEWS

Interior cuts back on telework (Friday) An Interior policy that took effect this week no longer allows department supervisors to telework on a regular basis. Supervisors are "not suitable for core telework" because their jobs entail dealing directly with staff and managing employee performance, according to a department bulletin from Raymond Limon, Interior's deputy assistant secretary for human capital and diversity. The department implemented the new policy Monday. Limon sent the memo outlining the changes to employees in mid-June. Core telework is defined as an arrangement in which eligible employees work from an approved alternative work site on a recurring, scheduled basis. Interior supervisors will be allowed to telework on a "situational" basis, which means they can work remotely under special circumstances, which can range broadly. Those circumstances could include inclement weather, a personal appointment or business travel obligation. While eligible employees can still telework, the new policy also seeks to curtail their time spent working off-site. Interior employees approved for telework now must physically report to their official duty station at least two full workdays per biweekly pay period, or once a week essentially, except in certain rare circumstances such as recovery from an injury. Employees with current telework arrangements must initiate new ones that adhere to the July 2019 policy by Nov. 12. Interior is among several federal agencies that have revamped their telework policies in recent months to effectively reduce the number of days employees can work from home. Interior implemented its telework policy in 2012, and officials said it was time for an update. "The changes to the telework policy aim to provide a work environment that best positions DOI employees to best serve the public," said an Interior spokesperson. As for the change affecting supervisors, the spokesperson said the department wants them to "be always physically available to their employees to help them grow professionally, provide feedback, and sharpen their skills."...

EPA: Wheeler objects to limits on sending U.S. waste abroad (Friday) EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler is opposing a recent international agreement that could limit the ability of the United States and other developed nations to send some types of plastic trash abroad. Under recently adopted amendments to what is known as the Basel Convention, the governments of importing nations would first have to grant permission to accept the waste. Wheeler formally objected

to that requirement in a recent [letter](#), telling the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that it could hurt the recycling trade and thus lead to more plastic scrap being sent to landfills or incinerated. The OECD, a group of 36 developed nations, includes the United States, Canada and most European countries. The U.S. is the only member to contest the new agreement, according to the Basel Action Network, an advocacy group that supports the added controls...

[Superfund: D.C. Circuit yields to EPA on hardrock mine bonding](#) (Friday) The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is upholding EPA's decision against imposing new financial assurance requirements on hardrock mines under the Superfund law. In her [opinion](#), Judge Karen Henderson, a George H.W. Bush appointee, said environmental groups, including the Idaho Conservation League, were misinterpreting the statute. She wrote that concerns about abandoned mine sites do not "undermine the reasonableness of the EPA's decision not to promulgate additional financial responsibility requirements for the entire hardrock mining industry." Also on the panel reviewing the case were Thomas Griffith, a George W. Bush appointee, and David Santelle, picked by President Reagan. During oral arguments in March, the judges homed in on deference to agency decisions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law [Greenwire](#), March 13). The government sent its top lawyer from the Justice Department's environmental division to argue the case. Jeffrey Bossert Clark said CERCLA gave the president and EPA broad powers of industry regulation...

[EPA: Policy aide heads to utility](#) (Friday) Daisy Letendre, a senior EPA official, is leaving the agency. Letendre, a senior adviser for policy and strategic communications at the agency, is joining FirstEnergy Corp. She will be part of the Akron, Ohio-based electric utility giant's federal government affairs team in Washington, D.C. Letendre's last day at EPA is today, according to a farewell email sent to colleagues and obtained by E&E News. "Serving this Administration and Administrator Wheeler has been an immense pleasure; the past two years have truly flown by," Letendre said in the email sent yesterday. "I am grateful to have played a small role in all that has been accomplished at EPA so far under this administration, and I am excited to see all that will continue to get done," she said...

[Great Lakes: Wheeler announces \\$2M for cleanup projects](#) (Friday) The head of EPA has announced a \$2 million grant program to clean up the shorelines and waters of the Great Lakes. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler during an appearance today in Cleveland says the grants will be available to state and local governments, nonprofit groups and universities for cleanup programs. Wheeler says removing trash from U.S. waterways is an EPA priority. The program is part of the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. It will fund up to a dozen projects, with the largest amount set at \$500,000. EPA is seeking projects that will address trash on beaches, shorelines, harbors and rivers. It will also fund litter prevention and education programs. Grant applications will be accepted starting in October, with awards announced in February.

[Coal Ash: Governments sue Duke Energy over 2014 spill](#) (Friday) The federal, North Carolina and Virginia governments asked a court yesterday to declare the country's largest electricity company liable for environmental damage from a leak five years ago that left miles of a river shared by the two states coated in hazardous coal ash. Government lawyers sought to have Charlotte, N.C.-based Duke Energy declared responsible for harming fish, birds, amphibians and the Dan River bottom. Hazardous substances like arsenic and selenium poured into the river at levels high enough to harm aquatic life, according to a complaint filed in the North Carolina federal district court near the site of the 2014 disaster. The leak of waste Duke Energy stored after burning coal for power coated about 70 miles of the river from a power plant near Eden, N.C., renewing national attention on the risks posed by similar storage pits across the country...

[MDJ ONLINE](#)

[Sterigenics clash could lead to special session](#) (July 22) SPRINGFIELD – A clash over a court filing that would pave the way for the reopening of a medical sterilization company linked to increased cancer rates could result in a special legislative session. Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker raised the possibility of a special session in a joint Thursday night news release from him and Attorney General Kwame Raoul. The news release was aimed at addressing blowback from a proposed consent order between the state, DuPage County and Sterigenics, a suburban Willowbrook company which uses cancer-causing ethylene oxide in its medical supply sterilization process. A judge is set to rule on whether the consent order filed by Raoul and DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin can move forward next Wednesday.

NEW YORK TIMES

The Lessons of a Hideous Forest The insistence of wild growth at Fresh Kills Landfill should make us rethink nature. –

OPINION –In my work as an arborist, I often visit wonderful woodlands — ancient forests of bristlecone pines, immense groves of redwoods, endless woods of quaking aspen or pollarded oaks. So it was with some curiosity that I found myself and a colleague some months ago headed toward the site of what was once the world's largest garbage dump — Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island — to look at trees. At the time of its closing in 2001, Fresh Kills contained more than 150 million tons of New York City garbage. Where there had once been salt marshes and wildlife, gas-emitting hills of garbage rose up to 225 feet high. As Fresh Kills grew, it became both a real and symbolic blight on what many consider New York's neglected borough, and its unsightliness and stench diminished the quality of life for generations of Staten Island residents. After the Sept. 11 attacks, a section of the site reopened for a time to serve a more somber role — as a search and sorting place for remains and effects recovered from the World Trade Center wreckage. Upon our arrival on that slushy winter morning, we found that much in the way of new life had emerged since then.

A Shipwreck, 500 Years Old, Appears on the Baltic Seabed For 500 years, the Baltic Sea held in its depths a tall ship of the Renaissance era. Around the time the ship sank, Columbus ...

THE HILL

Trump doubles down, says minority congresswomen 'should apologize to America'

LEADER TELEGRAM

Research finds irrigated farming in Central Sands cools climate

New research has found that irrigated farms within Wisconsin's vegetable-growing Central Sands region significantly cool the ...

SALON

NASA makes new effort to put women in STEM

In March 2019, Vice President Mike Pence stated that the goal of NASA should be to return humans to the Moon by 2024. While ...

FORBES

This New Documentary 'Paris To Pittsburgh' Makes Climate Change Local

the film also looks at the efforts to reduce carbon emissions by the city of Pittsburgh and features Mayor Bill ... will only help in the fight against climate change. Putting aside partisan politics ...

CNN

New species of tiny sharks that glow in the dark discovered by scientists Sharks are known to stalk and sniff out prey before they attack. But all this newly discovered shark species has to do is ...

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